(b) and (c) Government did not lodge any spacific protest in this context. However, our Official Spokesman on 17 October, 1993 had stated that Pakistan will doubtlessly orchestrate statements and resolutions on the Hazaratbal issue in every possible forum and that Government of India would treat such propagandistic statements as prazen falsehoods and unacceptable.

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement. Government have and will continue to take firm and necessary measures to apprise the international community of the facts regarding developments in Jammu & Kashmir in correct perspective.

Intimation regarding Haj Subsidy

642. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy on Haj is paid in cash to the pilgrims or the Haj Committee: if so, how much amount is required to be paid to each palgrims or the Haj Committee for Haj 1994.

(b) in which manner the subsidy involved in sea travel by the Haj pligrams is calculated;

(c) whether a ship will be made available for the Haj pilgrims to travel by sea, for Haj 1994;

(d) whether Government are still continuing to reimburse to the pilgrims for Haj 1993 the amount representing the differential between the official and the commercial rates of exchange applicable to the release of the foreign exchange to the pilgrims departure for Haj; and

(e) if Government have not yet paid by when this amount is expected to be paid to the 25,000 pilgrims who went for Haj in 1993 under the Haj Committee's arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A reasonable fare for pilgrims travelling by sea is decided by Government on the basis of the normal fare structure and taking also into account general financial capacity of the pilgrims and the level of fares fixed in past years. The difference between the fare so fixed and operational and other costs of making a ship available is absorbed by Government and its agencies.

(c) Plans for making a ship available for Haj 1994 are under consideration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

US consulate advertisements for providing information for stabilsty of that Government

643. DR. ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public advertisements have been issued on behalf of United States consulates offering moretary rewards to Indian citizens for providing information regarding individuals engaged in activities in this country aimed at the overthrow of the U.S. Government;

(b) whether prior permission of Government was taken for placing such advertisement; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government have been assured of reciprocal facilities for our intelligence agencies for undertaking similar investigations in the United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware of such public advertisements inserted by the US Government in certain publications published from abroad. These advertisements were not country specific.